30th January 1931]

## APPENDIX V.

[Vide answer to question No. 288 asked by Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Goundar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 30th January 1931, page 591 supra.]

### G.O. Ms. No. 78, Revenue, dated 15th January 1931

READ—the following papers.—

G.O. Ms. No. 129, Revenue, dated 28th January 1930.

From the Commissioner of Excise, C.R. No. 5907-Abk./3, dated 18th December 1930.

*Order—Ms. No.* 78, *Revenue, dated* 15th *January* 1931.

The Government approve the proposals of the Commissioner of Excise, contained in paragraphs 3 to 5 of his reference read above, for the extension of the dry area in the Tiruchengodu, Rasipuram and Namakkal taluks of the Salem district.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education and Excise)

H. R. PATE,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Commissioner of Excise.
" Finance Department.
Copy to Local Self-Government Department.

Letter from the Commissioner of Excise, dated the 18th December 1930, C.R. No. 5907-Abk./30.

The Commissioner invites the attention of the Government to his Reference C.R. No. 11487-Abkari, dated 30th November 1929, and the succeeding correspondence ending with G.O. Ms. No. 129, Revenue, dated 28th January 1930. Since the issue of the Government Order the following shops bordering on the experimental area were closed either by the Collector or by the Commissioner's orders :—

| Taluk. | Arrack shops. | Toddy shops. |
|---|---|---|
| Tiruchengodu ... | Velagoundanpatti ... | Kuttampundi. |
| | Manickampalayam ... | Munjanur. |
| Namakkal ... | ...... ... | Nallur. |
| Rasipuram ... | Navani ... ... | Navani. |
| | | Kalangani. |
| | | Kannurpatti. |
| | | Moolakadu. |
| Salem ... ... | ... .. ... | Attayampatti. |

It has been reported that the local temperance workers and the Co-operative staff of Mr. Ramachandra Rao continued their propaganda against drink and that a genuine desire had consequently sprung up among the people in a great portion of the dry areas to give up drink. In some villages,

[30th January 1931

it is stated, that the people themselves and some of the temperance workers have taken interest in putting down illicit practices and given information of crime to the authorities. There has been no increase in crime as a result of closure of shops.

2. The Commissioner has now visited the area again to judge the success of what has been done and whether the experiment should be continued, extended, or brought to an end. Mr. Bracken who toured in the experimental tracts while he was acting Commissioner found that the experiment had had a beneficial economic effect, but he observed that many weavers from the dry areas were still getting their liquor by going to the nearest shops that were open. This involved cutting short their working hours and so increasing, the hole made in their wages by the price of their drink. He was in favour of joining up the two areas (Tiruchengodu and Elur) and closing certain bordering shops which afforded the opportunity just referred to.

3. (i) The Commissioner is in general agreement with Mr. Bracken. He found everywhere, in and near the present dry areas, a strong body of opinion in favour of further closure, though in some places there were considerable numbers who were against closure of the wanted shops already closed to be re-opened.

(ii) Dealing first with Tiruchengodu the Commissioner visited the weavers' quarters in that town and was quickly surrounded by the inhabitants. The desire to continue the shops closed was practically unanimous and so was the desire to close the neighbouring shops to which the weaker ones were tempted to resort. The shops named were—

| | |
|---|---|
| Narayanapalayam ... ... | Toddy shop |
| Devanankurichi ... ... | Arrrck shop and toddy shop |
| Thokavadi ... ... ... | Toddy shop |
| Andipalayam ... ... | Do. |

and these were visited by the Commissioner who found in each case a general desire by the local people to do without the shops. The shops lie in a semi-circle round Tiruchengodu within a radius of 3 or 4 miles. The Commissioner agreeing with the Inspector and Assistant Commissioner proposes to close them from 1st April 1931.

4. To effect a junction between the two parts of the experiment the Commissioner proposes to close, from 1st April 1931, the following shops of Tiruchengodu taluk :—

| | |
|---|---|
| (1) Musiri ... ... ... ... | Toddy shop. |
| (2) Mavireddipattai ... ... ... | Do. |
| (3) Thondipatti ... ... ... | Do. |
| (4) Manali ... ... ... ... | Do. |
| (5) Minnampalli ... ... ... | Do. |
| (6) Vaiyappamali ... ... ... | Do. |

He travelled through the belt of country concerned and visited all but the first two of the shops. He found everywhere a strong desire to do without the shops on the part both of the local people and of the people of the dry area to whom the shops were a cause of stumbling.

5. The Puducha tram range of Namakkal circle has become entirely dry except for the toddy and arrack shops at Tirumalaipattai in the south-eastern corner and the Singalandapuram toddy shop on the eastern border. The

30th January 1931]

latter is an interior shop serving only local needs. The former is on the road from Rasipuram to Namakkal and, though it has not been recommended for closure by Mr. Ramachandra Rao or by the Temperance Propaganda Committee, the local feeling is so strong in favour of closure that the Commissioner is prepared to make the whole range a dry one by closing the Tirumalaipattai shops and transferring Singalandapuram to the adjacent range.

6. There was a strong demand to close the toddy shops at Rasipuram and the toddy and arrack shops at Attanur and both places were visited by the Commissioner. He found very marked public feeling about the matter in each place. In Attanur this resulted almost in a free fight between the dry and the wet parties. It appears that further work is required here to form a more preponderating public opinion before it is desirable to close the shops.

Rasipuram is a large centre where there is a numerous drinking population. The shops have already been rationed to their average consumption for the years before the experiment, as have all shops within 5 miles of the experimental areas. Closure of shops here has not been proposed by the Temperance Propaganda Committee nor by Mr. Ramachandra Rao and the question really belongs to another chapter. Closure in Rasipuram would be no use without closure of shops all round it, and this should await the extension of temperance work by the Committee and the Co-operative staff. In any case the closure of toddy shops without the arrack shop is of doubtful benefit.

7. Map is enclosed showing the proposals for extension of dry area made by Mr. Ramachandra Rao and by the Temperance Committee as well as the proposals now made by the Commissioner.

8. The approximate loss of revenue in the shape of rentals, duty and tree tapping as a result of the present proposal will be Rs. 20,000 per annum.

9. The Commissioner visited a number of places in the area involved in the proposals of Mr. Ramachandra Rao and the Temperance Committee which is not included in his present suggestion for extension. Some of the villages are remote and are not concerned in the economic problem of the weavers. In some the opinion seemed to be definitely against closure and in others to be divided. The Commissioner does not find their inclusion in the present extension either necessary or desirable. Closure of shops in these places must await a further spread of the temperance movement.